Neon Sign Survey

Description of sign(s)

1. Name: Safari Motel

2. Owner: Harold and Wendy Property Trust, Yeh Wendy Linh, Trs.

3. Address: 2001 Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV, 89101

3b. Additional Site Details (information on site, site history, owner comments):

The current building was constructed in 1956 (Assessor; RoadsideArch, n.d.), although several commentators state that the motel opened in 1954 (Glionna, 2017; VintageVegas, 2017). In its early years the motel was registered with the Automobile Club of America, which vouched for its quality (Glionna).

4. Condition (1-5 scale, with 5 being excellent, written description):

The condition is 3, fair. The reader board and cabinets are intact. The plastic panels on the east side of the readerboard are buckling. The paint on the readerboard is fading. The paint on the “MOTEL” letters is peeling slightly. The paint on the “SAFARI” letters and background is peeling moderately. Ten to fifteen percent of the lightbulbs on the “MOTEL” cabinet are missing. Almost all of the lightbulbs on the readerboard cabinet are gone. The neon tubes on the lower third of the sign have shifted position. The neon tubes on the upper two thirds of the sign appear to be in good condition. The neon which spells out “MOTEL” appears to be intact, except for the broken letter “L” on the east side of the sign. Between the reader board and the letter” L” of “MOTEL” is an oblong metal cabinet which is missing all of its former neon.

5. Form (pylon, blade, porte cochere, etc): Pylon sign

6. Specific Description:

The lower metal pylon is painted black. It supports a black metal framed readerboard which is cantilevered toward the street.

A rectangular blue metal pole aligned with the center of the pylon rises out of the readerboard. To the street side of the pole is a vertical arrangement of three open panels of yellow skeleton neon, the tubes set in a diamond pattern. On the street side of the neon panels is a blue metal cabinet. “MOTEL” runs vertically down the cabinet in white cartoon style sans serif letters which are outlined in white skeleton neon. A row of yellow incandescent lightbulbs runs down the street side of the cabinet. Between the readerboard and the letter “L” of “MOTEL” is an oblong blue metal cabinet.

The top of the blue metal cabinet intersects an irregular oblong shaped black metal cabinet. The black cabinet tops the neon panels and the rectangular pole. Rustic African safari style letters spell out “SAFARI” horizontally across the black cabinet in blue paint and white skeleton neon.

7. Type of Display (neon, incandescent, etc): Neon, incandescent

8. Media (steel, plastic, fiberglass, etc): Steel, plastic

9. Non-neon treatments: Incandescent lightbulbs

10. Animation:

LED Screen

11. Environment (surrounding properties, neighborhood): East Fremont Street

Artistic Context

1. Manufacturer:

2. Designer: Architect of Record:

3. Date of Installation: Possibly 1960’s (Garofalo, 2011; VintageVegas, 2017)

4. Date(s) of any major redesign/move:

The current sign shows only minor variations from the version displayed on a 1969 postcard (Garofalo, 2011). The pylon previously featured “VACANCY” spelled out in red or pink skeleton neon. AAA and what appears to be another automobile club badge are painted below “VACANCY”. The pole and “MOTEL” cabinet were painted red. The oblong cabinet between the reader board and the “MOTEL” cabinet was painted navy blue with “AAA” letters painted in white. A postcard which might come from a slightly later date (the auto club badges on the pylon have been replaced with a sign that states, “AMERICAN EXPRESS CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED HERE” shows the full neon and incandescent display at night (David, 2010). A photograph from 2011 shows the sign looking almost exactly as it is today (Garofalo, 2011).

5. Thematic Influence (design elements found on similar signs, elements related to the property, linkage to previous themes, trends, context): The sign conveys African Safari adventure themes. Also the older advertisements on the sign are remnant of the motor courts and automobile clubs.

6. Artistic Significance (themes and representation, era: time and design, trends, context):

Surveyor Notes

1. Research locations (archives, library, recorder’s office, etc)

Clark County Assessor, Parcel No. 139-35-802-002. Retrieved from <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/assessor/Pages/PropertyRecords.aspx?H=redrock&P=assrrealprop/pcl.aspx>

David, Heather. (2010 September 5). Safari Motel Las Vegas. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/14696209@N02/4962785104/>

Garofalo, M. (2011 November 1). Still standing-Safari Motel. Retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vintageroadtrip/6305057788/in/photostream/>

Glionna, J. M. (2017 April 23). Motel, once a haven, now a crime-ridden jungle in downtown Las Vegas. Las Vegas Review Journal. Retrieved from <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/downtown/motel-once-a-haven-now-a-crime-ridden-jungle-in-downtown-las-vegas/>

RoadsideArchitecture. (n.d.). Safari Motel. Retrieved from <http://www.roadarch.com/sca/extension3.html>

Rodgers, L. T. (2016 December 14). No vacancy: The last motels on Fremont Street. Retrieved from <http://dtlv.com/2016/12/14/no-vacancy-last-motels-fremont-street/>

VintageVegas. (2017 April 23). Safari Motel. Retrieved from <http://vintagelasvegas.com/post/159911346449/safari-motel-2001-fremont-st-opened-1954>

2. Research notes

3. Any other relevant surveyor remarks

Surveyor Date

\*Please attach a map from the assessor’s site when possible.